

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 7 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2004/002165.

Please add new claims 8 to 14 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new): An automotive night vision system, which comprises:
an active infrared illumination;
a camera for recording infrared images;
an image display for reproducing image information;
an evaluator arranged and configured to analyze parameters, to activate the active infrared illumination as a function of the analysis; and
a controller, independent of the evaluator, for activating and deactivating the night vision system, wherein the image display is activated and deactivated directly by the controller independently of the analysis of parameters.

Claim 9 (new): The automotive night vision system of claim 8 wherein the controller comprises a switch used for activating and deactivating the image display.

Claim 10 (new): The automotive night vision system of claim 8, wherein the controller is operable as a function of diagnostic systems.

Claim 11 (new): The automotive night vision system of claim 8, wherein the image display is arranged and configured to reproduce image information from at least one additional camera coupled to the night vision system and sensitive in the visible wavelength range.

Claim 12 (new): The automotive night vision system of claim 11, wherein, when the infrared illumination is inactive, image information recorded by the additional camera operating in the visible wavelength range is shown on the image display.

Claim 13 (new): The automotive night vision system of claims 10 wherein, when satisfactory quality is ascertained, the image display is operated to display the infrared image.

Claim 14 (new): The automotive night vision system of claim 8, wherein the image display is deactivated in a case when a malfunction prevents image information from being continually refreshed.